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Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 1985

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A PLAN FOR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE STRATEGY HEARINGS

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence announced today that the Committee will soon hold hearings on the formulation of a national counterintelligence strategy. In addition, they made four specific recommendations to limit the hostile intelligence presence in the United States.

Senator Dave Durenberger (R-MN) and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), testifying before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Governmental Affairs Committee, said the Intelligence Committee has been reviewing counterintelligence capabilities of the United States since before the Walker case came to public attention earlier this year.

Stressing that the Committee work is being done in close cooperation with the White House and appropriate government agencies, the two senators said that a public report to the Senate would be made at the end of the Committee review.

"Although the Intelligence Committee does most of its work in closed hearings, we believe it is vital for the entire Senate and the public to be aware of the full dimension of the espionage problem," they said.

The senators cited a number of actions already taken in the counterintelligence field but added, "more needs to be done."

"Creating a less favorable environment for espionage operations inside the United States should be the foundation of a national strategy," they said.

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Durenberger and Leahy then made four recommendations they said deserve immediate attention. The recommendations included equalizing U.S. and Soviet embassy and consular personnel by both reducing the size of the Soviet delegation in this country and increasing the number of Americans working at U.S. facilities in the Soviet Union. They noted the idea of achieving such a balance solely by an increase in the number of Americans in the Soviet Union, "totally misreads the intent of Congress and conflicts with the President's policy."

Other recommendations included reducing the size of the Soviet U.N. Mission, requiring certain foreign mission travel controls for Warsaw Pact country representatives, and regulating foreign-controlled commercial entities.

The senators said with the exception of regulating foreign-controlled commercial entities, all the recommendations could be put in place now without the need for enabling legislation.

Senator Leahy noted that he, together with Senator William Cohen, also a Member of the Intelligence Committee, has introduced a bill to reduce the size of the Soviet Mission in New York. In a floor statement on the bill, S.1773, on October 18, Senator Leahy expressed the hope that it would provide a focus for consideration of this important and difficult issue, and offered to work closely with the Administration in devising a reduction arrangement. "It may be that this bill will stimulate the Executive Branch to prepare their own plan to deal with the intelligence threat posed by the Soviet Mission to the United Nations," Senator Leahy said in his October 18 statement.

Senator Durenberger said that another bill will be introduced soon to provide the necessary legislative authorization for regulating foreign-controlled commercial entities.

The senators also submitted a preliminary report on the Intelligence Committee's review of U.S. counterintelligence and security programs. The report describes both human and electronic aspects of the espionage threat, as well as countermeasures to enhance U.S. security.

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